

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

**ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

13 NOVEMBER 1963

~~TOP SECRET~~

LATE ITEM

Iraq-Syria

a. The arrest on Monday of doctrinaire Baathist Party leader Saadi by more moderate party elements has touched off another burst of gunfire in Baghdad. Fragments of the national guard and air force refused to take his arrest lying down and jets have attacked the presidential palace this morning.

b. However, Defense Minister Ammash and his party cadres within the army appear to be siding with the moderates, and the situation at last report is calming down.

c. Fortunately for the moderates, those army units opposed to the Baath are for the most part stationed in the north fighting the Kurds and were thus unable to capitalize on the confusion in the party's ranks. However, they may yet move.

d. In any case, the Baath has been split and seriously weakened by the arrest of Saadi. The latter, who has a strong following in the lower levels of the party, has favored rapid socialization and early union with Syria.

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e. Should the Iraqi Baath fall from power, we doubt that the Syrian party can survive either. The latter is also in political convulsions, but with the opposite tendency apparently coming out on top.

f. General Amin al-Hafiz, commander of the army, has succeeded moderate Baathist Premier Bitar. His rival General Muhammad Umran, leader of the doctrinaire Syrian Baathists, has been named as deputy prime minister and one of Umran's followers has been appointed Chief of Staff.

g. These contradictory tendencies in the Iraqi and Syrian branches of the Baath probably lie behind the recent muffling of unity talk. Syrian military units are still stationed in Iraq, however.

1. South Vietnam

a. The new military leaders are out to revive cooperation with the once-powerful politico-religious sects in the delta.

b. Brigadier General Nguyen Huu Co, new corps commander for the provinces south of the Mekong River considers support from the Hoa Hao and Cao Dai sects of prime importance in developing popular support in the countryside.

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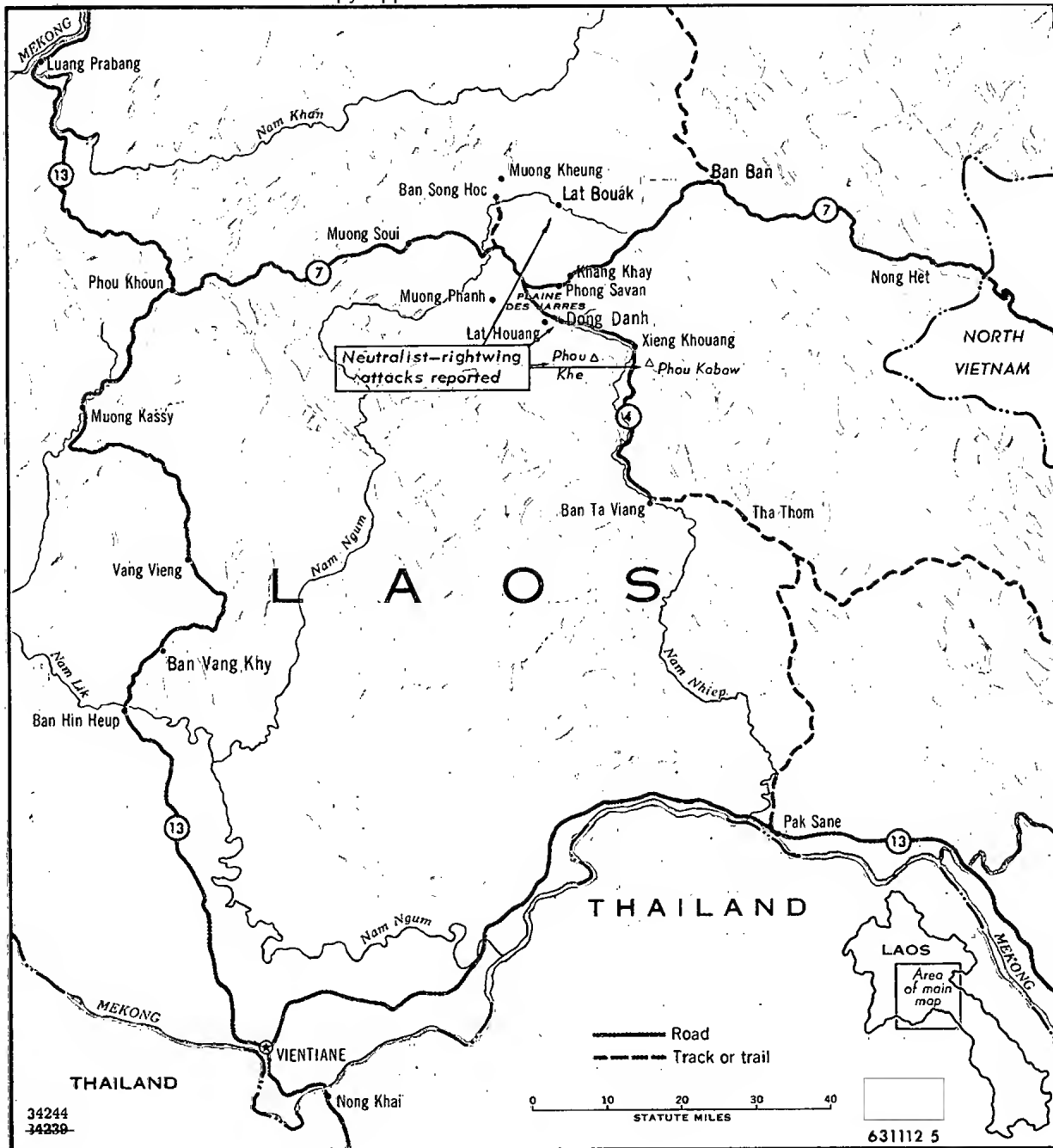
c. Co does not want the sects to set up their own armies again but plans to use their followers in the government's paramilitary forces.

d. Premier Tho has also indicated that he and General Minh hope to use the two sects and Catholic elements as well to breathe new life into the strategic hamlet program.

2. Laos

a. A clearing operation by neutralist and right-wing troops to oust enemy forces from key positions near the Plaine des Jarres is running into trouble.

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b. The Pathet Lao are counter-attacking in the Lat Boua region north of the Plaine. Neutralist positions in the Lat Houang area have also come under fire.

c. The neutralists have been trying to strengthen their positions north of the Plaine to get the jump on an expected Pathet attack in this area. They also want to take the high ground commanding the Route 4 supply route from Xieng Khouang town.

d. They would in fact very much like to take the town itself, but we give them little chance.

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NOTES

- A. Burma The Ministry of Home Affairs is meeting Thursday on the deportation of ten foreign Christian missionaries, headed by two Americans, old Burma hands, whose families have been working with the border tribes for many years. They are alleged to be "stirring up trouble contrary to the security of Burma." This is another example of Ne Win's xenophobia and could have been touched off by the recent coup in South Vietnam. [redacted]
- B. USSR Our embassy's initial reaction is that Barghoorn's arrest is probably in retaliation for our arrest of the Amtorg chauffeur Igor A. Ivanov who was involved in the Butenko espionage case. Efforts of our consul to see Barghoorn have been unsuccessful.
- C. Yemen-Egypt The Yemeni tribes are demanding additional tribute for their continued loyalty to the republican regime. The regime does not have the money, and has not been able to pay its army and civil servants in three months. Cairo will undoubtedly cough up, but Nasir cannot be too happy about it, especially since there is no end in sight. [redacted]
- [redacted]

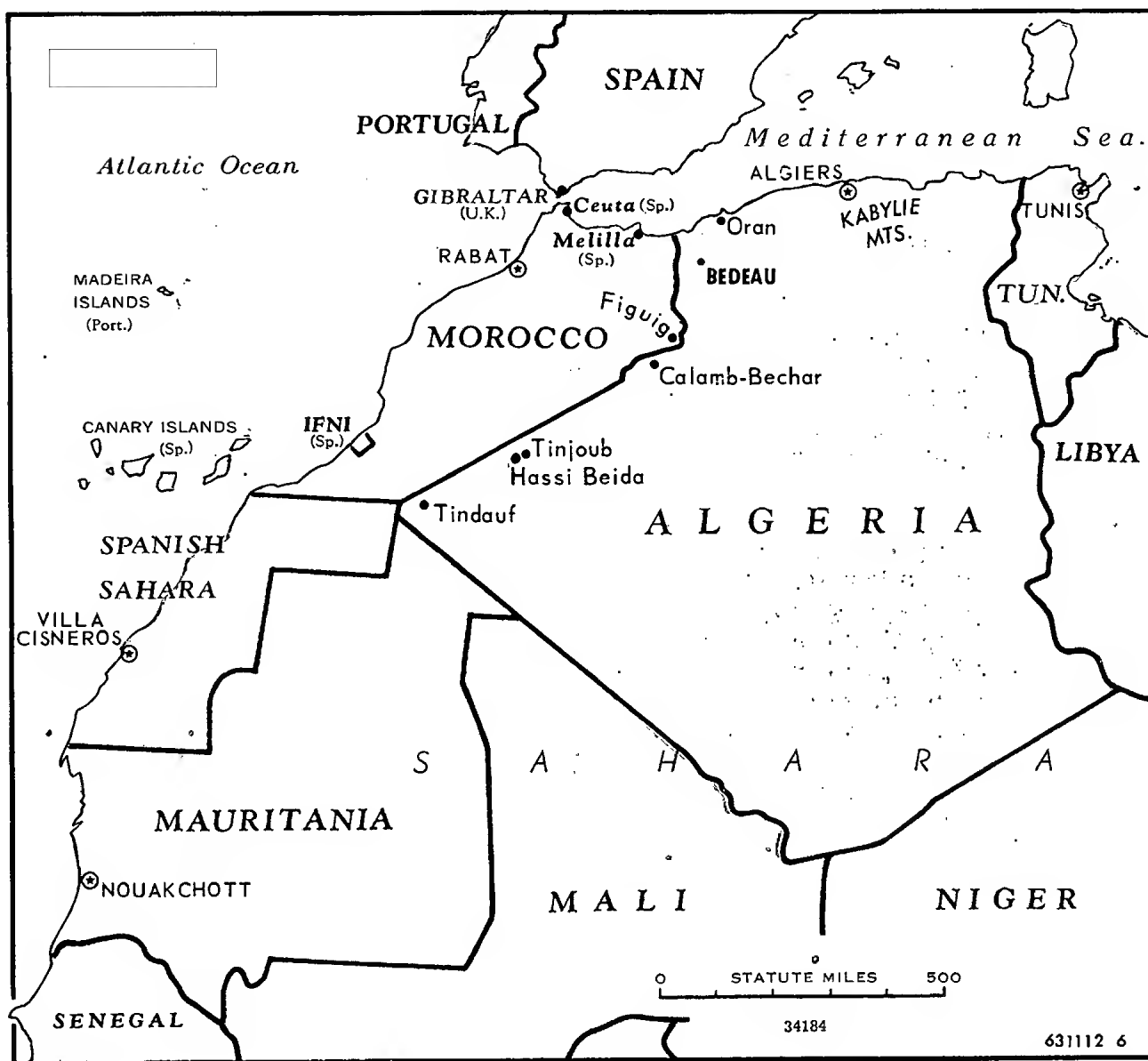
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E. Nationalist China [redacted]

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F. Cuba Reuters' correspondent Alan Oxley has been expelled after being held nine days on charges of espionage. Oxley, the last resident newsman from an English-speaking country, was arrested over 15 times in his three-year assignment in Cuba.

G. Algeria One Fadeyev, a Soviet general described as "head of Russian instruction," has turned up in Algeria. On Sunday he visited Bedeau [redacted]

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[redacted] The few Soviet military personnel previously known to be in Algeria are aiding in mine removal near the Tunisian border.

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H. Iceland Prime Minister Olafur Thors is resigning on doctor's orders. Bjarni Benediktsson, the minister of justice, is expected to be installed as his successor tomorrow. Our embassy anticipates no changes in the composition or policies of the government as a result of Thors resignation.

I. Colombia [redacted]

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[redacted] arrival of the El Cisne off Rio Hacha near the northwestern tip of Colombia. [redacted]